Residential Standards

- All homes must have adequate heating and cooling as evidenced by:
 - A. Heating equipment must be capable of maintaining a room temperature of not less than 68 degrees Fahrenheit throughout the home.
 - B. Cooling equipment must be capable of maintaining a room temperature of not more than 75 degrees Fahrenheit throughout the home.
- 3.5 The consumer's bedroom must have:
 - A. An operable smoke detector;
 - B. An operable window (minimum 5 square feet) to the outside with sill heights not exceeding 44 inches, with provisions for privacy;
 - C. At least 100 square feet for a single occupancy, or 160 square feet for a double occupancy;
 - D. A comfortable bed of proper height/size with pillow, and linen appropriate to the climate;
 - E. Operable lighting,
 - F. Functional furniture for each consumer;
 - G. An entrance door:
 - H. Evidence of personal effects chosen by the consumer; and
 - 1. Sufficient and personal storage space.

- The consumer's bedroom must not be a detached building, unfinished attic or basement, hall, or room commonly used for other than bedroom purposes.
- As appropriate, provisions must be made available for: televisions, telephones, radios, computers, mirrors, locks, etc.
- Maximum of two (2) consumers per bedroom, with at least 3 feet between beds.
- Children of opposite sex sleeping in the same room must be limited to children under four (4) years of age.
- Children must sleep within calling distance of an adult member of the family.
- Adults and children are not permitted to sleep in the same room.
- Each consumer must have a flashlight.



S.C. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND REGULATION Division of Fire and Life Safety

Office of State Fire Marshal 141 Monticello Trail Columbia, SC 29203 Phone 803 896-9800 Fax 803 896-9806

MEMORANDUM

Policy Number 1-020

TO:

State Fire Marshal Engineering Staff

Deputy State Fire Marshals Certified State Fire Marshals

FROM:

William Galloway, Interim State Fire Marshal

DATE:

February 10, 2004

SUBJECT: Emergency Egress Openings (Residential Occupancies)

SCRR 71-8300.11 F.1.g (Foster Care) and 71-8300.11.D.3 (CTH II) require resident bedrooms comply with Building Code (IBC & IFC 1009) "Emergency escape and rescue."

Bedrooms on first, second, third floors and in basements are to have at least one exterior emergency escape and rescue opening (window or door opening directly into a public street, public alley, yard or court), unless: (These exceptions do not apply to R-3, One and Two Family Dwellings).

- (1) Building is equipped with an approved automatic sprinkler system. (system needs to be maintained per NFPA 25).
- (2) Sleeping room is provided with a door to a fire-resistance-rated corridor having access to two remote exits in opposite directions.

The window or door must be operable to full minimum required opening without the use of separate tools or key.

Opening must be no more than 44 inches above the floor.

Clear open height of opening must be a minimum of 24 inches.

Clear open width of opening must be a minimum of 20 inches.

Ground floor openings are required to have a minimum net clear opening of 5.0 square feet,

Second and third floor openings are to have a minimum net clear opening of 5.7 square feet.

(See IBC or IFC 1009.5 for basements)
To find the net clear opening in square feet, use the following:

$N = H \times W / 144$ inches

N = net square feet of clear opening H= clear height in inches W= clear width in inches

Windows more than 20 feet above grade, but not more than 3 stories, will also require an escape ladder, escape rope or other approved device.

The use of a passage through an adjacent non-lockable space, that is independent of and remote from the primary means of escape, to access any approved means of escape or emergency egress may be requested in writing to the State Fire Marshal for consideration as an alternate method of compliance.

The above requirement applies to all <u>new</u> requested Homes.

The above requirement applies to existing Homes (approved prior to October 21, 2003) as follows:

- 1) When the previously approved bedroom changes to another bedroom.
- 2) When bedrooms are requested to be added for more children/clients.
- 3) When emergency escapes were provided but become blocked by an addition or change to structure.
- 4) When Care Home is closed and reopened.
- 5) If the total glass area (that can be knocked out) is less than 5.0 sq ft. for ground floors and less than 5.7 sq. ft. for above ground floors.

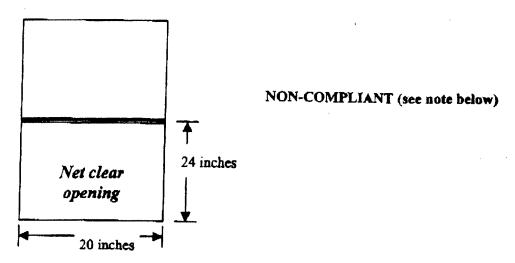
In existing homes, a note is to be placed on the report so the owner will know that safety can be improved for the home by complying with the IBC. Example: "Note: IBC states a window with minimum clear height of 24" and minimum clear width of 20" for total of 5 sq. ft. when open is needed for client bedroom. Current window has 15"H x 30"W opening."

Encourage owners to consider correcting the problem for their's and the client's safety.

A tolerance of one inch may be permitted for clear height opening.

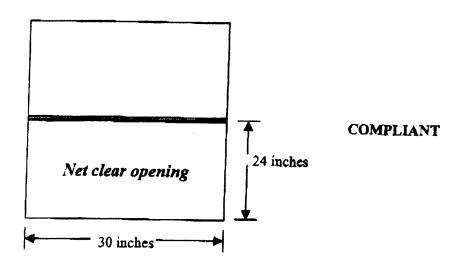
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Example 1. Window clear open height and width. (Standard door to the outside also acceptable).



Note that 24 inches times 20 inches divided by 144 inches is less than the 5 or 5.7 square feet opening required. One of the dimensions will need to be greater than the minimum to achieve the minimum net clear opening. $(24^{\circ} \times 20^{\circ} = 480 \text{ in}^2 + 144 = 3.3 \text{ ft}^2)$

Example 2. Net clear opening within requirement.



24" x 30" = $720 \text{ in }^2 + 144 = 5.0 \text{ ft}^2$ (5.0 minimum for first floor – 5.7 minimum for second floor)

(Secondary Egress 4)

Page 3 of 3